

**City of Aberdeen Council Meeting
August 26, 2013**

Present: Mayor Bennett, Councilwoman Elliott, Councilwoman Landbeck, Councilman Garner, and Councilwoman Young

Absent: None

Also Present: Douglas Miller, City Manager
Phyllis Grover, Director of Planning and Community Development
Matthew Lapinsky, Director of Public Works
Henry Trabert, Chief of Police
Opiribo Jack, Director of Finance
Monica Correll, City Clerk
Doris Manner, Recording Secretary

Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The prayer was led by Apostle Dianne Welsh from Breath of God Christian Fellowship and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilwoman Elliott.

A motion was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilwoman Landbeck to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2013, Council Meeting and the Business Meeting/Work Session of August 12, 2013. **The motion was passed with a vote of 5 – yes.**

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Aberdeen High School Lady Eagles Girls Basketball Team Ring Ceremony

Mayor Bennett and Councilman Garner presented the Aberdeen High School Lady Eagles Girls Basketball team, the coaches, and the managers, class rings commemorating their victory as State Champions for two years in a row. The rings were donated by the City and Saxon's Diamond Center of Aberdeen.

2. End-of-Year Consolidated Reporting to HUD, Harford County Department of Community Services

Ms. Tiffany Robinson, Community Development Manager, presented information on the Community Development Block Grant Funds and Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report for HUD. For Aberdeen, the funds for FY 2011 and 2012 totaled \$115,346.05 and were used for the North Deen Park improvements. The remaining balance of \$40,383.19 was to be used for lighting at the skate park. Funds for FY 2013 were \$81,750.00; funds for 2014 were \$83,499.00 for a total balance going forward of \$165,249.00.

3. Heritage Trust Beautification Awards for August

Mayor Bennett and Mr. Dan Augustyniak, Heritage Trust, presented the August Beautification Awards to Leslie and Jerry McGlothlin (not present) and Enid Y. and William Gonzalez (present) for their home beautification accomplishments.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Mr. Bruce Poughkeepsie, Edmund Street, Aberdeen.

Mr. Poughkeepsie complained about a code violation near his home that was not rectified by the City.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

1. Resolution No. 13-R-04, Presbyterian Home of MD Annexation Plan (For Approval)

Ms. Grover stated that a public hearing was held on July 22, 2013. Information was sent to the Maryland Department of Planning and Harford County Department of Planning and Zoning for review. The annexation request was for 9.052 acres off of Long Drive for two commercial buildings, future residential development (20-24 apartments or 8-10 single family dwellings), extension of water and sewer, and emergency services. The land use zoning was Integrated Business District (IBD).

Mr. Miller added that the City would require a traffic study by a professional of the City's choosing before development begins as requested by the Harford County Department of Planning and Zoning. He suggested that the petitioners commence with the traffic study as the City would incorporate this requirement into the annexation agreement.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Landbeck and seconded by Councilman Garner to approve Resolution No. 13-R-04, Presbyterian Home of MD Annexation Plan.

The motion was passed with a vote of 5 – yes.

2. Resolution No. 13-R-10, Habitat for Humanity Project (For Introduction and Approval)

Mayor Bennett introduced Resolution No. 13-R-10, Habitat for Humanity Project.

A motion was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilwoman Young to approve Resolution No. 13-R-10, Habitat for Humanity Project.

The motion was passed with a vote of 5 – yes.

3. Resolution No. 13-R-11, Strategic Demolition/Smart Growth Impact Fund (For Introduction and Approval)

Mayor Bennett introduced Resolution No. 13-R-11, Strategic Demolition/Smart Growth Impact Fund.

Ms. Grover reported that the City submitted a grant application through the Department of Housing and Community Development to acquire three properties on Franklin Street in the amount of \$485,000 and to move the City's vision forward for the Train Station and Transit-Oriented Development (TOD).

A motion was made by Councilwoman Elliott and seconded by Councilwoman Landbeck to approve Resolution No. 13-R-11, Strategic Demolition/Smart Growth Impact Fund.

The motion was passed with a vote of 5 – yes.

4. Ordinance No. 13-O-07, Amendments to the City's Personnel Policy Manual (For Introduction)

Mayor Bennett introduced Ordinance No. 13-O-07, Amendments to the City's Personnel Policy Manual. Mr. Miller explained that the ordinance was required to fulfill federal regulations that the City amends its employee personnel manual to include accommodations for employees with disabilities caused by or contributed by pregnancy.

5. Charter Resolution No. 13-CR-02, Aberdeen Fire Department (AFD) Life Member Spouse Tax Reduction (For Introduction and Approval)

Mayor Bennett introduced Charter Amendment Resolution No. 13-CR-02, Aberdeen Fire Department (AFD) Life Member Spouse Tax Reduction. Mr. Miller stated that the Resolution would provide real property tax exemption for the surviving spouses of bona fide members and bona fide life members to the extent of \$45,000 of assessed value. Mayor Bennett and Councilwoman Landbeck stated that they abstained due to a conflict of interest because the Mayor was a life member, Councilwoman Landbeck was married to a life member, and her mother-in-law was a surviving spouse.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Young and seconded by Councilwoman Elliott to approve Charter Resolution No. 13-CR-02, AFD Life Member Spouse Tax Reduction.

The motion was passed with a vote of 3 – yes; 2 – abstention.

Ayes: Councilwoman Elliott, Councilwoman Young and Councilman Garner
Abstained: Mayor Bennett and Councilwoman Landbeck

6. Charter Resolution No. 13-CR-03, Presbyterian Home of MD Annexation (For Introduction

Mayor Bennett introduced Charter Resolution No. 13-CR-03, Presbyterian Home of MD Annexation.

BUSINESS OF THE CITY:

1. Unfinished Business – None

2. New Business – None

3. Business from the Director of Planning & Community Development - None

4. Business from the Chief of Police

Chief Trabert reminded everyone that school had started and to watch for children, walkers, and to obey the crossing guards.

5. Business from the Director of Finance

a. Budget Amendment: Rock Glen Park Acquisition

b. Budget Amendment: Franklin Street Acquisition

Mr. Jack requested a budget amendment in the fund balance for the Rock Glen Park acquisition in the amount of \$200,000 and three properties on Franklin Street acquisition in the amount of \$455,000.

Mr. Miller explained that Rock Glen Park was a two million dollar purchase by the State, County, and City. The City was asked to contribute \$200,000 toward the project. The three properties on Franklin Street were key elements in the implementation of the Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) plan. The City hoped to obtain grant funds for the Franklin Street acquisition.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Landbeck and seconded by Councilman Garner to approve the budget amendment for Rock Glen Park in the amount of \$200,000.

The motion was passed with a vote of 5 – yes.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Elliott and seconded by Councilwoman Landbeck to approve the budget amendment for the acquisition of three Franklin Street properties (between the library and the Senior Center) in the amount of \$455,000.

The motion was passed with a vote of 5 – yes.

Mr. Jack reported that the City, in the final stages of closing the fiscal year, had a significant surplus.

6. Business from the Director of Public Works

- a. Purchase Approval: Bid No. APG WTP #12-06, One Single Axle Dump Truck with 6-Yard Body

Mr. Lapinsky reported that, since there had been no bidders, the City would like to piggyback on a previous APG competitive bid #APG WTP #12-06 and APG WWTP #12-04 for a 2013 single axel dump truck with a 6-yard body from Norris Chesapeake Ford Truck Sales, Inc. in the amount of \$93,875.00. Council discussed the warranty.

A motion was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilwoman Young to approve the purchase of a Single Axle Dump Truck with a 6-Yard Body from Norris Chesapeake Ford Truck Sales, Inc. in the amount of \$93,875.00.

The motion was passed with a vote of 5 – yes.

- b. Surplus Approval: Skid Loader

Mr. Lapinsky requested surplus approval for a 1997 Case Skid Loader with 1,100 hours in order for the City to sell it. Council discussion followed pertaining to the resale.

A motion was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilwoman Young to approve the surplus of a 1997 Case Slid Loader with 1,100 hours.

The motion was passed with a vote of 5 – yes.

7. Business from the City Manager

Mr. Miller said that IT Coordinator, Bradley Grant, managed a phone system replacement project for vendor selection and recommendation. Mr. Grant explained that after careful consideration and at the recommendation of the City Manager, the interdepartmental review committee, and himself, the vendor recommended was Comstar Technologies of West Chester, Pennsylvania. The upfront cost would be \$7,050.00 and a \$4,068.00 monthly lease. Money would be saved from the elimination of unused phone circuits. Mr. Miller added that the funds had been budgeted for the last three years.

A motion was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilwoman Landbeck to award the contract for the City of Aberdeen phone system replacement to Comstar Technologies of West Chester, Pennsylvania for an upfront cost of \$7,050.00 and \$4,068.00 monthly lease.

The motion was passed with a vote of 5 – yes.

BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:

1. Business from the City Council

Councilwoman Elliott commented on Mr. Poughkeepsie's public comment and gave a timeline of her activities concerning the matter.

Councilwoman Landbeck thanked everyone and the volunteers involved in the Cal Ripken World Series. Ms. Grover was thanked for her grant work.

Councilwoman Young stated that much was being formulated to enhance the City and that the directors and staff deserved appreciation.

Councilman Garner thanked Mr. Lapinsky and the Department of Public Works for the tour of the waste water treatment plant. Chief Trabert and his department were thanked for the last community policing event.

2. Business from the Mayor

Mayor Bennett announced the meeting schedule. He invited everyone to attend a 9/11 Memorial Ceremony and Ground Breaking in Festival Park made possible by Aberdeen Heritage Trust.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next Business Meeting/Work Sessions:	Monday, September 9, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. Monday, September 16, 2013 at 4:00 p.m.
Next Council Meeting:	Monday, September 30, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.
Planning Commission Meeting:	Wednesday, September 11, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilwoman Young to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.